

# THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

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We are now forwarding bills for subscription, etc., due this Office, by letter, with the hope that the amounts will be remitted without delay.

## The Public Lands.

In regard to the public lands in the new States and Territories, or, indeed, in any of the States, where they lie in any quantities, there are some considerations to which we think it proper to call attention. In the first instance, they are the property of the General Government, acquired either by cession from some of the original members of the confederacy, as in the case of the Southwest and Northwest Territories East of the Mississippi, or by purchase from foreign powers, as in the case of Louisiana, acquired from France, or in the more recent instance of our acquisitions from Mexico. In either or any of these cases, the title to these lands is vested in the General Government as fully as is the title to the custom house in Wilmington, or the fortifications at Oak Island. There are no restrictions in the deed of cession, nor are any asserted to exist in the treaties with foreign powers, beyond or outside of the requirements of the Constitution.

Thus, then, these lands are property—Government property—to be managed and disposed of as property. With regard to this management or disposal, there are certain things to be considered: First, the equitable principle that all property should bear its fair proportion of public burdens. North Carolina has the power to tax every dollar's worth of property within her borders, unless where she voluntarily waives that right. Suppose, however, that it were otherwise—suppose that a large portion of her soil were owned by a non-resident proprietor, and that that soil—that property—was exempted from her power of taxation—not bound to bear any part of the burdens of her government, or contribute anything to the development of her resources. Would that be exactly fair? Would not North Carolina have reason to complain? Now, that is precisely the position of the States and Territories in which the public land lies. The General Government is an owner of property in these States and Territories—so far as the action of these States or Territories goes, it is a foreign proprietor. Its property is not subject to the otherwise sovereign power of taxation. Yet, that property must be benefited by the organized governments for the support of which the property of all other proprietors is taxed—its must be enhanced in value by the public improvements deemed necessary for the development of the resources of the State or Territory. Since the power to tax does not legally vest in the local government, the appeal is to the sense of justice of the untaxable proprietor, in plain terms, to Congress. Minnesota, for instance, has organized a State Government, and goes to work to make her improvements. She taxes Bill Jones and John Smith, private property-holders, for all the purposes of Government—public works included. She comes to one great, public property-holder, Mr. Uncle Sam. There is his property within the limits of her sovereignty. That she cannot touch, and yet he will receive as large a proportionate benefit as either Smith or Jones. She passes her law and compels Smith and Jones. She goes to Congress and asks Uncle Sam, a property-holder in Minnesota, through whose lands Minnesota improvements will pass, to do his share as well as Jones and Smith. It appears to us that there is an equitable claim upon Uncle Sam as an honest property-holder, to bear his due share without shirking. That he should do so is the principle contended for in all the land bills.

The second consideration is one of policy—the "prudent proprietorship" policy. In defense of this policy, it is contended that, waiving the question of justice and equity altogether, the Congress of the United States, acting as the proprietor of the public lands, proceeds strictly in accordance with the rules of "prudent proprietorship" in granting lands in alternate sections for works which bring the whole remainder into market, and enable them to be disposed of at prices which yield a larger and prompter return in revenue than could have been realized from all, had such grants not been made, and such works not been constructed. This is purely a question of policy, and it is reasonable to suppose that the General Government, like nearly every Government, gets gouged considerably at times, as she would be even if she did not try the experiment. We think the policy has sometimes been a bad one—sometimes a good one. It always costs the Government more for everything than it would do a private corporation, while it costs a corporation more than it would do a private business man. We do not wonder, therefore, if at times, Messrs. Smith and Jones have driven pretty hard bargains with Uncle Sam.

Thus far with reference to the duty and the policy of the General Government as a land-holder—a possessor of property within the bounds of organized local governments. We come now to her constitutional obligations to the States, of which she is the creature—the agent; by whom she was called into being—from whom she derives all her powers, and outside of, or beyond whose grant she possesses no power whatsoever, while within that grant her powers are clear and indisputable. The constitution of the United States distinctly lays down the rule that no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriations made by law. It is also certain that Congress can pass no law contrary to, or unauthorized by, the grant of limited powers made by the constitution. Where would Congress find in the constitution any authority to pass a law for taking money out of the Federal Treasury for the purpose of distributing it among the States? The General Government was not erected for any such purpose. What function of the General Government is to be promoted by taking money out of the Treasury and distributing or giving it away? None. Then Congress has no right to appropriate any money in the Treasury for any such purpose, because such purpose is foreign to the intention, and beyond the scope of the powers conferred by the constitution.

Upon the whole, the once favorite hobby of a distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands was found to be too easily run off its legs to allow it to be useful in a long journey. Not even the popularity—the prestige—the tact or the abilities of Mr. Clay himself, could keep the spavined jade on the track. It was too plain for argument that there was no one branch of the delegated powers of Congress under which appropriations could be made, to take money out of the Federal Treasury for no Federal object, direct or implied. The distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands was virtually abandoned as untenable. Some folks suddenly woke up one morning with a new revelation. They would not ask for the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. They would simplify the matter and get around the constitution at the same time by asking for the lands themselves! Immense discovery! Profound subterfuge! And some of these Columbus of the constitutional and financial world call themselves Democrats!

What do the public lands represent, and how were they acquired? Were not the lands West of the Mississippi—the lands of the Louisiana purchase—bought primarily with money from the United States Treasury, appropriated by Congress? And farther, has not money been taken out of the same Treasury by Congressional appropriation and paid to the Indian tribes for the extinction of their titles? Is not money constantly taken out of the Federal Treasury for the survey and protection of these lands? Now, is it not the height of absurdity to say, that although it is unconstitutional for Congress to levy taxes, collect revenue, and appropriate money for purposes not contemplated in the grant of power made by the States to the Federal Government, it can still take this same money, buy and manage lands, and give them away in a manner equally at variance with the intent and meaning of the Federal compact—Of course the same reasoning will apply to the more recent purchase from Mexico.

But it is said that, after all, the public lands are no longer a source of profit to the Federal Treasury. This may be so—we rather think it is correct. But neither is the Post Office Department a source of profit. On the contrary, it is an annual charge. But who will argue that, therefore, the revenues of the department should be distributed among the States, while its expenses remain a burden to be defrayed by taxation? Suppose we distribute the lands, or give warrants for them to the States, which is about the same thing, the cost of their acquisition has fallen on the Federal Treasury—the expenses of their protection and management must continue to fall upon it, and money must be raised by taxes upon the articles we consume sufficient to meet these expenses, to do which the proceeds of the lands themselves will be no longer available.

The latest avatar—the freshest revelation of the advocates of distribution in North Carolina, is the letter of Duncan K. McRae, Esq., addressed to Wm. F. Dancy, Esq., of Edgecomb county, in which letter Mr. McRae states that, "having no political aspirations to gratify—having voluntarily yielded an honorable office into the hands of the administration, and being altogether desirous of devoting myself entirely to my profession, I am enabled to communicate with you [Mr. Dancy] in entire frankness and sincerity." Although attacking in this letter the position of the Democratic party of North Carolina, Mr. McRae seems now to think that the natural and inevitable result of his course—a result which must have been foreseen, compels him to take the stump, and have political aspirations. Surely, when Mr. McRae wrote this letter, he must have expected that it would elicit strong animadversions from the Democratic press of the State, although he now throws himself back upon this inevitable fact to justify or excuse his taking the stump—we are compelled to think as a candidate. We leave this matter to be explained as best it can—we have no merely personal censures to pass—we have no merely personal attacks to make; we simply state the facts as they exist. Mr. McRae has announced that he is to take the stump, commencing next week at Goldsboro', assigning as a reason, the necessity of defending himself from the attacks of a portion of the press—attacks which his own course invited, if it did not provoke.

While Mr. McRae occupies this position on one hand, let us turn to another portion of his letter, and another part of the field. Towards the close of that letter, he says: "For my own part, I wish some practical farmer, a Democrat, would take this issue in hand, and appeal to the people upon it." Now, while papers from one quarter bring us the announcement of Mr. McRae's appointments, those from another bring us tidings of Mr. Walter F. Leake, the "practical farmer," having actually "taken the matter in hand," and appealed to the people of Anson upon it, in a speech recently delivered by him at Wadesboro'. These be queer things to plain men—they look rather like there being political aspirations somewhere. They do not look like that disinterested missionary zeal that seeks the good of the human race without fee or reward. Our disinterested political philanthropists—our self-forgetting propagandists of disorganization are not so plenty as some folks would persuade themselves, and try to persuade others.

But let this go for what it is worth. Let us turn to the subject-matter we have in hand. Let us examine the new proposition brought forward by Mr. McRae, on the grounds of expediency or plausibility. We have already discussed the relations of the General Government, as a landed proprietor, to the organized communities within whose civil jurisdiction the public lands lie—we have considered the "prudent proprietorship" policy—we have discussed the right of the General Government, or of Congress, to make appropriations of money or donations of property for purposes neither within the letter nor spirit of any of the powers conferred upon it by its creators, the States. Setting all these considerations aside for the moment, let us proceed to examine the plausibility of Mr. McRae's scheme, which we give in his own words, as follows:

What then do I propose? I propose that Congress shall withdraw all the public lands in the Territories from sale for ten years, to issue land warrants in sections and quarter sections, etc., to the governors of the several States according to their federal population, for two hundred millions or thereabouts, the number still remaining undisposed of in the land States, perhaps two hundred and fifty millions—land warrants will be subject to sale like the soldiers' land warrants, and located when sold by the purchaser. This plan will get rid of the difficulty about one sovereign holding domain in the limits of another, and about the taxation of these lands by the States in which they lie, for the title will remain in the general government until the location.

The Treasurers of the several States will hold the warrants in market, and no new officer will be needed. By this means immigration will be confined to the States, and our population prevented from scattering over the wilderness. Thus the necessity of expensive territorial governments will be avoided. The larger expenses of the Department of the Interior may be reduced; and what is of vital importance to us, the present near equilibrium of the Senate will not be disturbed by the continued introduction of free States.

If it be said that so much land thrown into the market will become worthless, I reply such is not our experience. The soldiers' land warrants always commanded fair prices, and sold readily. I do not remember the precise amount sold in about five years, it could not have been much below one hundred millions, and during the same time railroad companies were selling largely, and the general government also. I think about twenty-seven millions of acres were sold in two years of Mr. Pierce's administration; at this rate, it would not require ten years to sell the whole. Besides, no land would be disposed to sacrifice its warrants, for if they could not be sold at fair prices, they could be used as a fund to meet the States' indebtedness, and thus the credit of the State would be preserved and her bonds kept at par; while at least enough could be sold from year to year to make a valuable sinking fund.

The government will still have left twelve hundred millions of acres in the Territories to meet any exigency, and long before this is exhausted we shall probably have acquired as much more.

By such a distribution I calculate North Carolina would receive from twelve to fifteen millions of acres. This sold at even a dollar an acre would yield enough to pay her debt, to double her school fund, and then allow for extension of railroads three or four millions of dollars.

This, then, is the new scheme, planned to get rid of still another difficulty, that about one sovereign holding domain in the limits of another, and about the taxation of these lands by the States in which they lie. All this is to be avoided by keeping the title in the General Government until they are located. How many expedients the distributionists are forced to resort to to get rid of difficulties! First, the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands was brought forward, but abandoned as untenable—there was a slight "difficulty" to be got rid of—this difficulty existed in the constitution, and under some shape or other the same difficulty interferes with all the adroit schemes that have been launched. Then came the scheme of dividing the lands—divesting the United States and investing the separate States. We think we have shown that this scheme was equally objectionable with the other, and, besides, an additional and practical "difficulty" was discovered, that to get rid of which, Mr. McRae brings forward his new bounty land-warrant scheme. Somehow, these "difficulties" remind us of the old sailor's account of the "little difficulty" that the Bengal tiger had with the black cook of the Indian man on board which he came as a passenger. "He had a little difficulty with the cook," said Jack. "How was

that?" asked the Middy. "Why, you see," replied Jack, "the tiger seemed to be a sort of pet with all hands but the nigger cook, and rather liked being taken notice of, but the cook he couldn't stand—he always got mad when cookey came near his cage. Cookey didn't dare to scrape acquaintance with nigger, for all that; so, one day, who thought the Bengal looked particular quiet and good humored, he opened a hole on top of his cage, and poked something down into him on the end of a spit or something, leaning with his head at the hole—Quicker nor lightning old Bengal clapped his paws on the back of the nigger's neck, where it joins his head, and tore the head right off the body, which tumbled back on the deck dead. That was the difficulty the tiger had with the cook." The "difficulties" in the way of the distributionists are equally fatal. Indeed, Mr. McRae's expedient to avoid this last difficulty, throws him back upon the position of a distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands; for if the title remains in the U. S. until the location, then it is United States property that is sold, it is United States money that is received without legal appropriation made or any Federal object promoted.

Say that there are two hundred and fifty millions of acres of public lands unsold in the States—does it then follow that these lands can all be sold for the sum of one dollar per acre. The experience of the General Government justifies no such assumption, nor does it justify the assumption that one half even could be realized.

There is such a thing as graduating the price of the public lands, according to the system now in operation, the wisdom of which has been endorsed by every President who has remarked upon it at all. Lands in the market for a certain number of years and unsaleable are offered at 75 cents per acre; still longer in the market, they are offered at 50 cents; longer again, at 25 cents; and finally at 12½ cents. For years past the number of dollars received into the Federal Treasury for lands has not more than half equalled the number of acres of land actually sold. It is said that land-warrants sell well. So they do. At least they sell, but these warrants are for any portion of the public domain not preempted or otherwise taken up. They are for the pick and choice of all the lands in the States or Territories.

But suppose that, instead of being thus, they were for the lands as they come: say that warrants are issued for two hundred and fifty millions of acres, for all the lands within the borders of the present States, a few millions might be sold at something like eighty cents an acre, but after awhile—after the pick and choice had been taken, there would be a coming down from the magnificent figures of sanguine speculators. It is easy to talk about two hundred and fifty millions being sold in time to pay our debts and build our railroads. But it is not so easy to prove that it can be done. This is actually more public land than has been sold—given away, or otherwise disposed of since the formation of the government. We are asked to look at the rate according to which lands have been taken up during the last few years of extravagant speculation. We do look, and we do see and feel the results of this mania—the country has felt it. Long years must elapse before any considerable demand can be expected to arise. If we wait for that to build our railroads or pay our debts, Lord help the creditors, say we. How much would the late crisis have been intensified had any such scheme been in operation?

In 1853 the Secretary of the Treasury stated the cost of the public lands up to that date at \$74,957,879 38, money paid out of the Federal Treasury directly for the purchase and management of these lands, and this has since been augmented by the sum of ten millions to Mexico for the Gadsden purchase. This does not include anything for territorial governments or military protection. The interest on this sum is over five millions of dollars, exceeding greatly the net annual average realized from this source. If these lands or their proceeds are given away, it will just amount to a tax on the Federal Treasury for no remuneration and for no purpose authorized by or contemplated in the grant of powers made by the States.

Let us look at the thing in the light of history. At the time when the original States, or what had been colonies, achieved their independence, their claim to all the lands within their bounds was never once called in question. If Virginia, North Carolina and other States ceded lands then useless to themselves, it was their own voluntary act—an act of patriotism certainly—for the purpose of strengthening the confederacy. An act the very opposite of that so furiously advocated by some men of the present day. The new States do not claim for themselves what was assumed as an inherent sovereign right by all the original States, the right of ownership or taxing power over all the lands within their sovereignty, but they ask that the Federal proprietor of lands shall do like any other proprietor—hence the great outcry raised.

We by no means assent to the tone of depreciation of their own State adopted by the distributionists. North Carolinians are, per capita, richer than Illinoisans. The credit of North Carolina stands higher to-day than that of Illinois, and her ratio of taxation is less. She has not been stimulated into speculative extravagances by the illusive prospects of sudden gain. Her resources are great, and she will develop them without being a pensioner of the Federal Government at the cost of tariff exactions, calculated to increase the real evil under which she labors—that of commercial dependence upon the North. If her population has increased in a less rapid ratio, but it has not arisen from the want of public lands, but from her different and more limited basis of labor. The slave labor of the South is restricted within the limits of a natural increase, and no healthy superstructure can be raised disproportionate to the basis upon which it is expected to stand. But is she less virtuous or less happy? Who will assert it? We would not change her condition to-day with that of the boasted North-West.

We might comment upon the inconsistent course of politicians claiming affinity with the Democratic party, and yet affiliating with its most bitter opponents, in their efforts to sow dissension in its ranks, by the advocacy of a policy which that party has over and over again denounced as unconstitutional. We might point to the position of the treasury, which renders such a scheme at the present time simply ridiculous, and its advocacy available for no end but that of agitation for personal advancement, but we prefer to argue the question upon its own merits, appealing solely to the judgements of our readers.

## "North Carolina Bank Notes Not Received Here."

A gentleman recently arrived here from the North, via Baltimore, the Chesapeake Bay, Norfolk and Portsmouth, informs us that the above announcement states, every passenger in the face who goes to procure his ticket at the ticket-office on board the steamer "North Carolina," of the Bay Line. The line has certainly a right to refuse uncured money if it chooses, but why this insulting placard—this contumelious discrimination against North Carolina alone of all the States in the Union? That in a boat named after the State, this tacit insult to every North Carolinian should be so ostentatiously paraded, is surely strange.

We like the Bay route—we have even found its officers clever, gentlemanly and accommodating. We have always advised our friends to take that route as the most pleasant, and we now ask them to remove this offensive notice, which is doing much to prejudice their line with every citizen of the State.

EXTRA TERM.—An extra term of the Superior Court of Law for this county, commences its sessions here to-day, His Honor Judge Person on the bench—the Court is to hold for two weeks in order to dispose of the accumulation of causes which encumbers the docket.

The Fayetteville Observer, in its last issue, has an article headed "The Old Line Whigs," in reply to some remarks of the Wilmington Herald. With the general issue between the Herald and Observer, if an issue be made, we have nothing now to do. We simply refer to the article of the Observer for the purpose of expressing our dissent from one of its statements, which is contrary to our recollection of facts. The Observer says:—"It is, however, a well-known fact, that most of those former Whigs who voted for Mr. Buchanan, had already left the Whig party and joined the Know Nothing party, as the American party was then called. Look over this State, for instance, and almost every prominent case is of that description."

Now, about here, we know the case to be different.—There were gentlemen, formerly members of the Whig party, who had at one time joined the Know Nothings, who left that association and subsequently acted with the Democratic party, and voted for Mr. Buchanan, but nine-tenths of the prominent gentlemen who joined the Democratic party here had been Old Line Whigs, and had never gone into or sympathized with the Know Nothing movement. We need not specify individuals or quote names, but the fact is so, and known to be so.—We presume it will hardly be questioned by the one acquainted with political movements in the town of Wilmington.

Now for the State at large. Let us cite the first instances that occur to us—certainly among the most prominent.—James W. Osborne, Esq., Paul Cameron, Esq., and Hon. Daniel M. Barrenger. None of these gentlemen had ever joined the order. None of them could have been persuaded to join it.

There was a sort of affair at Baltimore, calling itself Old Line Whig Convention, gotten up to ratify and strengthen the Know Nothing nominations. In that affair the senior Editor of the Observer, and some other gentlemen, claiming a distinctive Whig character, participated, making little capital, and producing less effect by the operation. But the majority of prominent Old Line Whigs who went for Mr. Buchanan, had never seen the inside of a Council room, nor could have been persuaded into the role of humble endorsers of Know Nothing movements or nominations.

## The Elizabeth City Democratic Pioneer.

We regret to notice the bitterness of spirit which is displayed by the Elizabeth City Pioneer of the 19th inst. This bitterness is turned against the members of the Democratic State Executive Committee, and is evoked by the selection of Charlotte as the place for holding the next State Convention. We do not object to the Pioneer's disagreeing with the Committee as to the expediency of that selection—we have no right to object. But with all due respect to the Editor of that paper, we say distinctly that he has no right to impugn the motives of the Democratic citizens composing the committee. As a member of that committee—the humblest member we admit, we feel that our course as a Democrat—yes, our humble but faithful services to the party, ought to have placed us beyond the reach of such imputations. The other members of the committee are too well known to require defense from us. We must feel assured that Mr. Godwin wrote his article upon the convention hastily, and that his cooler judgment and better feelings will alike condemn the precipitate censure into which excitement may have hurried him.

Now let us state the real difference between Raleigh and Charlotte to all persons East. In time, the difference will be just one day. Attendance on the Convention at Charlotte will necessitate an absence from home of just one day more than would be required were the Convention held at Raleigh. As return tickets will, of course, be issued on the North Carolina Railroad, the whole additional expense will not exceed seven dollars. If this effectually prevents Eastern members from being present, then all we can say is, that we have always been mistaken in our estimate of Eastern members. We think the Pioneer is mistaken—it has not fully examined the subject. We beg it to look into the matter carefully.

There is another feature in the remarks of the Pioneer which conclusively indicates the want of due consideration. It intimates or hints at a threat of want of support to the nominee of a convention held at a point of which it disapproves. Surely, this comes with a bad grace from a Democratic paper, circulating in a district which already supplies the State with a Governor and United States Senator. Surely, the first district ought to be the last to complain that its claims, or the claims of its citizens, have been overlooked.

We have attended State conventions since 1849, and recollect well that, on more than one occasion, when a business committee was to be formed to two from each district, it was found impossible to obtain even one committee-man from the extreme Western district. We have frequently seen gentlemen from the West passing through Wilmington on their way to Raleigh. Indeed we recollect on one occasion that two Western districts were unrepresented. We don't think it anything more than right to give the Western people a fair showing.

We really expect to see the Pioneer itself going in strong; we expect to meet its editor there, and to like him too; and furthermore, we expect to see a gallant representation from the land of Bragg, Biggs and Shaw. When disorganizers are openly lending their influence to our more open opponents to break down the influence and organization of the Democratic party, we hardly think that good and true Democrats ought to play into the hands of these disorganizers, by the display of a capacious spirit on a mere matter of detail.

MILITARY ELECTION.—At a meeting of the "German Volunteers" held on the 21st inst., for the election of officers, the following gentlemen were chosen: C. Cornelison, Captain. J. G. Bauman, 1st Lieutenant. H. Voller, 2d do. H. G. Haselagen, 3d do.

A NEW MOTTO.—Our neighbor of the Herald keeps the word "Plunder" standing at the head of its editorial columns. It must have quite an affection for it.

## The Two Votes in Kansas on the Lecompton Constitution.

St. Louis, Jan. 20.—A dispatch received here from Kansas, signed by F. P. Stanton, of the Lecompton 21st inst., in this territory, as 6,500 for the Lecompton constitution, and that of the poll of 4th inst., as 10,000 against it. The first vote it will be recollected was taken in accordance with the requirements of the convention which framed the constitution, the latter only under the subsequent act passed at the extra session of the Legislature.

## The Kansas Election.

St. Louis, Jan. 20.—The Democrat has Kansas letters to the 14th. The returns of the first election were opened by Mr. Calhoun and Governor Denver on the 13th inst. The vote stood: "With slavery" 6,063; "without slavery" 5,076. Of the total vote 3,562 voters were polled in precincts containing only about 1,000 inhabitants.

The result of the last election on the constitution were not counted. Smith the free State candidate for Governor received 6,238, and Marshall, democrat 6,530.—Parrott, free State, for Congress 6,623, and Carr, democrat 6,568. The Senate stands 13—Free State men 13; democrats 6. House—Free State 29; democrats 14. Calhoun declares that he will not close the count now but will receive other returns, although the time allowed has expired. The Territorial Legislature will provide for another constitutional convention.

## Apprehensions for the Ariel.

New York, Jan. 20.—The steamship Ariel is out over twenty days from Europe, and serious apprehensions are entertained for her safety.

## The Missing Steamer Ariel.

New York, Jan. 21.—The steamship Ariel left Southampton, England, on the 31st ult., since which time she has not been heard from. She has one hundred passengers, a large and valuable cargo, and a heavy English and continental mail, also one thousand pounds in specie on board.

## An Appeal.—Union Free School.

During the latter part of the year 1896, a School House was built in the rear of the Fifth street M. E. Church, by the contributions of a few of our citizens, to be used exclusively for a free school. On the first of May last, it went into operation, closing on the 1st of August, having had an average attendance of sixty scholars. At present again on the 1st of October, and still continues, having a large number of scholars.

The school is open to admission for all indigent children, priority given to those residing in the district. The School House is a fine, commodious building, fitted with many modern improvements, and capable of accommodating one hundred scholars. Books of all descriptions required are also supplied gratuitously.

From the very marked improvement exhibited in the children, since the commencement of this school, we believe that large numbers will avail themselves of this opportunity to lay the foundation for future usefulness, and we cannot but anticipate great results from its success.

So far, upon whom it has borne heavily; and we now call upon the public to assist in a work so deserving and calculated to do so much good. The estimated expenses for the present scholastic year of ten months is \$450, of which about \$350 remains to be provided for; there is also a debt of some \$250 yet unpaid, requiring some \$600 to pay the debt and continue the school. Without this assistance, it will be closed at an early date, a result which will be a serious injury to the children, and a sad disappointment to the friends who have thus far supported it.

We appeal to our generous citizens to help us. We invite a thorough inspection of the school, and either member of this committee will visit it with any citizen desiring to do so. Without the aid called for, it must fail—its benefits are already visible; its future benefits cannot be too largely estimated. The want of a free school where the poor white children of our town may receive education has long been felt, and it certainly should not be suffered to stop for the want of the material aid—so insignificant in amount, but absolutely necessary for its perpetuity. Any contributions left at the Store of Messrs. Brown & Anderson, will be acknowledged and kindly received. THE COMMITTEE.

Town papers viewing the object with favor, will please copy.

## Thirty-Fifth Congress.—First Session.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1898. SENATE.—A large number of memorials and petitions were presented, which were referred to the appropriate committees. Among the number was one by Mr. Brown, from the trustees of the public schools of the city of Washington, praying a grant of the public lands in aid of common school education in that city; also, a petition from citizens of Georgetown, complaining of the Long Bridge across the Potomac as an obstruction to the navigation of that city.

On motion by Mr. Davis, a resolution was adopted requesting the Secretary of the Interior to communicate to the Senate the report of J. Ross Browne, special agent of the Indian Department, on the late Indian war in Oregon and Washington Territories. After other morning business, the Senate resumed the consideration of the special order, and Mr. Hale concluded his remarks in opposition to the Lecompton constitution. Mr. Harlan having obtained the floor, the further consideration of the subject was postponed until Monday next; and, after the consideration of executive business, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—After the introduction and appropriate reference of a large number of bills and the passage of sundry resolutions, the House went into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. Boocock, of Virginia, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the President's annual message; the question being on agreeing to certain resolutions referring it to the standing committees. After considerable discussion, the committee rose and reported the resolutions to the House, and they were agreed to, together with one referring so much of the President's message as relates to the construction of a rail road to the Pacific ocean to a select committee of fifteen.—Union.

## WASHINGTON, January 21, 1898.

SENATE.—The Committee on the Public Lands reported back the Homestead bill, which was made the special order for the 8th of February. The Committee on Military Affairs reported a bill to increase the army by adding men and companies to each regiment, excepting the time for naval officers, who were aggrieved by the retiring board, to make application for restoration to the 7th of April, was passed.

HOUSE.—The Committee of Ways and Means reported the fortification, naval, civil, legislative, executive, judiciary, and appropriation bills. A bill altering the time of holding the Courts of South Carolina was passed. The Committee of Ways and Means reported a bill to supply the deficiency in the public printing, stated to be now due, for paper alone, amounting to \$170,000. The Senate bill, extending the time for naval officers, who were aggrieved by the retiring board, to make application for restoration to the 7th of April, was passed.

## WASHINGTON, January 22, 1898.

SENATE.—The Senate was not in session to-day. HOUSE.—A resolution was adopted to enquire into the expediency of making Baton Rouge a port of entry. An ineffectual effort was made to adopt a resolution calling on the President for correspondence to show how far the Mormons are in a state of rebellion to this government. The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Court Claims bill. Mr. Billingshurst made a speech in favor of the Pacific rail road. A motion to adjourn till Monday was lost.

## From Havana.—U. S. Frigate Washburn.

New York, Jan. 20.—The U. S. Frigate Warrior, from Havana, with dates to the 15th, has arrived. The Spanish squadron sailed on the 12th for a cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, for the benefit of the health of the crews.

It was rumored (but generally discredited) that Santa Anna was on board, and that the fleet was bound for Vera Cruz.

The U. S. Frigate Washburn arrived at Havana on the 15th, with Anderson, the filibuster, and forty men on board.

The weather was warm and business of all kinds was dull. Exchange on New York, short time paper, 5 1/2 per cent. premium.

The Warrior brings \$80,000 in specie.

## From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The War Department has asked Congress for an appropriation of \$1,224,000 to pay for 4,800,000 rations for subsisting the Utah expedition for 20 months, from the 1st of July, that amount being required for 5,000 soldiers, 200 women, 300 servants, and 1,894 employees, with the maintenance of 8,000 soldiers. The sergeant-at-arms of the House has dispatched deputies for witnesses to appear before the several special investigating committees.

The Senate in executive session to-day confirmed the remainder of the naval nominations made pursuant to the recommendations of the naval courts of inquiry.

## From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21.—One of the deputies of the sergeant-at-arms of the House has started for the neighborhood of Fort Snelling, and three others in different directions, to summon witnesses for the various investigating committees.

Capt. McIntosh has received preparatory orders, and will go out in the ship Colorado, to take command of the home squadron.

The President has issued a proclamation for the sale of a very large quantity of the public lands in Iowa in June and July next, at the various land offices in that State. Some of them lie on each side of the line of railroads.

The Secretary of the Treasury has appointed Albert Blaisdell, superintendent of construction for the new cut-throat dam at Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

It is contemplated by the War Department to dispatch Lieutenant-General Scott to the Pacific coast for the purpose of organizing a force against the Mormons from that quarter.

The bill introduced in the Senate to-day by Senator Davis provides for adding to each regiment of dragoons, cavalry, infantry and mounted riflemen two full companies, and increasing the number of privates in each company of the entire force serving in the field or at distant frontier posts to a number not exceeding 96 men. Also, for an addition of fifteen assistant surgeons to the present medical staff.

## Great Fire.

HARTFORD, (Conn.), Jan. 23.—The building owned by Willis Thrall, in this city, and occupied by several manufacturers, was burned last night. Loss \$100,000. It was the largest fire that has occurred here in twenty years. Many persons were thrown out of employment.

## The Steamer Fashion Seized at Mobile.

New Orleans, Jan. 19.—The steamer Fashion has arrived here from Havana, and was seized by the United States authorities in consequence of her recent connection with the Walker expedition.

Advices from Texas state that the shipping at Galveston was much damaged by the recent gale.

## Decision Against an American Vessel in a Foreign Court.

New York, Jan. 20.—The French papers per steamer America, report that the court in the case of the collision of the steamer Lyons and the American bark Adriatic, rendered a decision against the latter, condemning the captain to pay damage and cost.

## Kansas Election.—Official Returns.

St. Louis, Jan. 21.—The Democrat publishes the official returns of the recent Kansas elections, over the signature of Governor Denver, as follows: Constitution "with slavery" 6,143; "without slavery" 5,069. At the election of the 4th instant all the free State officers were elected by an average majority of 415. The Senate stands 13—Free State men 13; democrats 6. The House 29 free State men to 15 democrats. The majority against the constitution at the same election was 10,220. The alleged frauds in Oxford, Shawnee and Kickapaw being counted.

## Hon. H. W. Davis on the Newspapers.

In the report of Friday's proceedings in the House of Representatives appear some remarks of Hon. Henry Winter Davis, member from the City of Baltimore.—We extract the following sentences: "For his part he held the newspaper press in utter contempt, for he was not about to join our brother knights of the pen, and were they to make direct charges against him he would take no other notice than to hold their conductors responsible for libel. His reputation as a public man and gentleman in the House was enough to look in the face the whole combined press of the country. When charges were made in the newspapers only he did not hold them worthy the dignity of the House to be the foundation of an investigation. But here was a different case. Men of respectability characterized made the charge from their investigation of the books of one of the merchant princes of the country, and that was adequate foundation for investigation. The editors of newspapers will feel very sorry when they read the above—very sorry."

It reminds us of an anecdote: When William Penn was Governor of Pennsylvania, in company with a friend he took shelter from a storm in the shop of a cooper. The man was a violent, long-suffering man, and conducted himself with such impropriety as to draw upon him a rebuke. He was very indignant and with an air of great consequence, informed his visitors that surely they did not know who he was. "I am a justice of the peace!" said he. The comrade of the Governor quietly remarked, as he pointed to Penn, "my friend makes such things as these. If Mr. Davis has cut his teeth, he will be able to make the application to the court above utterance. It